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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/699,624	10/30/2000	Michael Goldstein	12808.7USII	7054
23552	7590	06/09/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			AN, SHAWN S	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2613	<i>[Handwritten mark]</i>	
DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/699,624	GOLDSTEIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Shawn S An	2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 10-17, 20 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 10-17, 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 4/23/04 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/699,624 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Response to Amendment

2. As per Applicants' instructions in Paper 20 as filed on 4/23/04, claims 1, 12, and 20 have been amended, claims 5, 8-9, and 18-19 have been canceled.

Response to Remarks/Interview summary

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims have been carefully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection incorporating the previously cited prior art references and a newly found prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-17, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Street (6,075,555) in view of Watanabe (5,812,187).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 11, 15, and 20, Street discloses a stereoscopic device comprising:

at least two apertures (Fig. 3, 41) including a light valve being operative to open at a different predetermined timing (col. 6, lines 34-50);

a multiwavelength light sensor array (32) for detecting a plurality of frames; an illuminating unit (Fig. 1, 1);
a controller (43) connected to the light valves, and the multiwavelength light sensor array, wherein the controller controls the timing of the operation of the light valves, and the multiwavelength light sensor array, for detecting a plurality of images, and for each of the images, only a single one of the light valves exhibits an open state (col. 6, lines 36-50).

Street does not specifically disclose a controllable multi wavelength illuminating unit producing at least two alternating beam of light as being in a different range of wavelengths and only one of the at least two alternating beams of light illuminating the detected scene, and detecting a selected illuminating one of the beams.

However, Watanabe teaches an endoscope (Fig. 1) comprising a conventional controllable multi wavelength illuminating unit (5) producing at least two alternating beam of light (7) as being in a different range of wavelengths, wherein only one (sequentially) of the at least two alternating beams of light illuminates an object or a scene, and detecting (2) a selected illuminating one of the beams.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing a stereoscopic device as taught by Street to incorporate the Watanabe's controllable multi wavelength illuminating unit so as to produce at least two alternating beam of light (R, G, B) having a different range of wavelengths wherein only one (sequentially) of the at least two alternating beams of light illuminates an object or a scene, thereby the Street's controller controls the timing of the operation of the multi wavelength illuminating unit, and detects a plurality of images (frames) including a selected open one of the apertures and at least a selected illuminating one of the beams, for each of the images only a single one of the light valves exhibits an open state, wherein only one of the at least two alternating beams of light illuminates an object or a scene for generating a more accurate color video signal, thus improving an image quality.

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Regarding claims 2 and 3, the Examiner takes official notice that it is obvious to include two groups of sensor or a plurality of sensors so that each group of sensor can detect light in a different wavelength such as blue or red or green.

Regarding claim 6, Watanabe's teaches a multiwavelength light source (6 or 7); a light dispersing unit inherently shown (Fig. 1), but not indicated as an element; and light guiding means (3) connected between the light source and the light dispersing unit for guiding light.

Regarding claim 10, Street discloses a storage unit (50 or 51) for storing captured data.

Regarding claim 12, Street discloses a stereoscopic display unit (abs.) for producing the images.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Street discloses wavelengths consisting of visible red, green blue colors light (7). Furthermore, it is considered quite obvious to add more conventional colors such as cyan, yellow, magenta, infra-red, ultra-violet, and visible light.

Regarding claim 16, since Street discloses RGB sensor array, it is considered quite obvious to include/substitute CYMG sensor array so as to detect different wavelengths.

Regarding claim 17, Watanabe's teaches an image processing (20a-21a) connected to the CCD sensor and the illuminating unit. Further, it is inherently well known for a stereoscopic device, such as a stereoscopic endoscope, to include an image processing for processing images for display on display monitor. Therefore, incorporating the combination of Street and Watanabe's's references, it is considered quite obvious to utilize an image processor such as Watanabe's's image processor, to be connected to the Street's light sensor array, and the Watanabe's's illuminating unit.

Regarding claim 21, the Examiner takes official notice that it is conventionally well known for a conventional stereoscopic device to reconstruct a stereoscopic image from a sensor or a camera, which comprises a plurality of frames as outputs, for display on the stereoscopic monitor.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Street and Watanabe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pourcelot et al (4,605,009).

The combination of Street and Watanabe does not specifically disclose the multi wavelength illuminating unit surrounding the apertures.

However, Pourcelot et al teaches an endoscope comprising an illuminating unit (Fig. 2, 19) surrounding the optical part of the probe for an optical illumination.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing a stereoscopic device as taught by Street to incorporate the Pourcelot et al's illuminating unit so that the multi wavelength illuminating unit surrounds the apertures in order to efficiently illuminate different range of wavelengths to a maximum level.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Shawn S An whose telephone number is 703-305-0099. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex hours (10).

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 SSA Primary Patent Examiner

6/1/04